

his energy task force secret because he does not want to admit that the administration was exploring ways of taking out Saddam Hussein before 9-11 strictly for the purpose of taking control of Iraq's oil fields?

I do not know the answer to that question, Mr. Speaker, and I do not think the American people know either. But the reason we do not know is because Vice President CHENEY again refuses to allow the American people to see these documents of the energy task force.

Another possibility, and again I am not just speculating, there is some evidence, is whether these energy task force documents were potentially hiding documents involving Enron. Could it be that the Bush administration also wants to keep the records of its energy task force secret because it wants to continue to distance itself from the Enron scandal? According to a 2002 report by the Committee on Government Reform, seven of the eight recommendations that then Enron Chairman Ken Lay gave to Vice President CHENEY miraculously made their way into the final energy task force report. Back in January, 2002, the San Francisco Chronicle released a memo given by Enron Chairman Lay to Vice President CHENEY at a meeting on April 17, 2001. Enron's memo contains recommendations in eight areas. In total, the White House energy plan adopts all or significant portions of Enron's recommendations in seven of these eight areas. Enron representatives had six meetings with the White House energy task force, including four meetings that occurred before release of the final report. The White House has consistently refused to disclose what Enron requested during these meetings. And despite all these meetings and the fact that Enron Chairman Ken Lay was President Bush's largest financial supporter, another reason the administration may want to keep these documents secret is that they do not want the American people to see more collaboration between the Bush administration and former Enron executives.

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Now, once again, Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether or not these documents would reveal the collaboration between Enron and President Bush, and neither do the American people. But we will never find out if the documents continue to remain secret.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude this evening, and, of course, I listened to some of the comments that my colleagues on the Republican side made earlier before I spoke about energy policy, but I wanted to say, Mr. Speaker, if the Republicans really want to address our Nation's current energy crisis, which they say they do, then they should finally wrestle legislation authorship away from the oil and gas executives and craft bipartisan legislation between Democrats and Republicans that truly modernizes our Na-

tion's energy needs and finally ends our dependence on foreign oil.

The Republicans have to get away from the special interests and get away from writing legislation that just is for the benefit of the oil and gas executives. Otherwise, we are never going to see something pass here that actually helps the average American.

The facts about the Republican energy bill are clear: It provides billions in benefits to companies run by over 20 executives who have raised more than \$100,000 each for the President's reelection campaign. One thing we do know, is when the policy was being written, the task force met with 118 energy groups, but only 13 environmental groups, and only one consumer group. Based on those statistics, who do you really think would benefit from this Republican energy bill?

For over 3 years, Democrats have been fighting for a short-term plan to bring down high prices and a long-term plan for energy independence. We want to create a more reliable power grid, reduce our dependence on foreign oil and encourage research on new energy technologies and alternative fuels. Democrats want to lower gas prices. We want to force OPEC to make a meaningful increase in production, and we want to defer deliveries of oil to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and put it into the marketplace.

Lastly, and maybe most important, we want the FTC, the Federal Trade Commission, to investigate, to make sure that oil and gas companies are not working together to keep prices high.

In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are doing everything they can to create a diversion. This week with their Energy Week they are creating a diversion and trying to shift attention away from their failed energy policy. I have often said they are in the majority; they are the majority here, they are in the majority in the other House, and they also have a Republican President. If they pass a bill here which they think is a good bill, then why is it they cannot pass it in the Senate where they have the majority?

Why is it they cannot collectively pass a good energy bill? The reason is, it is not a good bill. It is a terrible bill. The other body will not pass it because they know it is not a good bill.

What we have here is a failed energy policy, and this Republican Energy Week is nothing more than an effort to create a diversion, to keep passing the same old legislation in different forms. But, again, it is not working. This is a ruse by the Republican leadership. Americans know that it is not working, and they are reminded of it every time they fill their tank and see the high gas prices.

So I would say to the Republicans, stop fooling around; stop with this mockery, if you will, of the legislative process by keep passing the same failed legislation. Nobody out there is paying any attention. Americans realize that gas prices are high and that nothing is

happening here in Congress to make a difference.

Instead, the Republicans should sit down with the Democrats on a bipartisan basis and try to put together an energy policy that will really work to lower gas prices and to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, particularly Mideast oil, and, until they do that, no one is going to seriously believe that their so-called Energy Week really matters or makes any difference.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURAL RULES

U.S. CONGRESS,
OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE,
Washington, DC, June 16, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This transmittal letter supersedes the transmittal letter of June 15, 2004.

Section 303(a) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 ("Act"), 2 U.S.C. 1383(a), the Executive Director of the Office of Compliance shall, "subject to the approval of the Board [of Directors of the Office of Compliance], adopt rules governing the procedures of the Office, including the procedures of hearing officers, which shall be submitted for publication in the Congressional Record. The rules may be amended in the same manner." The Executive Director and Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance are transmitting herewith the enclosed Amendments to the Procedural Rules of the Office of Compliance for publication in both the House and Senate versions of the Congressional Record on the first day on which both Houses of Congress are in session following this transmittal. See 303(b) of the Act, 2 U.S.C. 1383(b).

The amendments to the Procedural Rules of the Office of Compliance shall be deemed adopted by the Executive Director with the approval of the Board of Directors on the date of publication of this Notice of Adoption of Amendments to Procedural Rules on both the House and Senate versions of the Congressional Record.

Any inquiries regarding this Notice should be addressed to the Executive Director, Office of Compliance, 110 2nd Street, S.E., Room LA-200, Washington, DC 20540; 202-724-9250, TDD 202-426-1912.

Sincerely,

SUSAN S. ROBFOGEL,
Chair of the Board of
Directors.

WILLIAM W. THOMPSON II,
Executive Director.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO PROCEDURAL RULES

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

On September 4, 2003, a Notice of Proposed Amendments to the Procedural Rules of the Office of Compliance was published in the Congressional Record at S11110, and H7944.